

Old Naval Observatory (U. S. Navy Bureau of
Medicine and Surgery, Potomac Annex,
Building No. 2)
Entrance to grounds at 23rd and E Streets, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS
DC,
WASH,
497A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY ..	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Old Naval Observatory		HABS NO. DC-341
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE U. S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Potomac Annex, Building No. 2		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) entrance to grounds at 23rd and E Streets, NW		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1843	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the federal government's earliest and most important scientific ventures. First superintendent of the observatory, Matthew F. Maury, gained international fame for his oceanographic and astronomical research. Observatory moved to present location on Massachusetts Avenue in 1880's.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 2-story; flat roof with observatory dome		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Doric pilasters; windows and door have entablatures supported on consoles		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Wings added to east, west and south before 1893; circular building to house additional telescope added at end of south wing 1873; second floors of wings added after 1880		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974. A National Historic Landmark Category II District of Columbia Landmark.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, HABS (edited by Druscilla J. Null, HABS)		DATE 8/4/83